

July 12, 2006

Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street MS 4042
Herndon VA, 20164

MASSACHUSETTS
MARINE TRADES
ASSOCIATION



RE: Opposition to Cape Wind Offshore Proposal
Project ID: PRG-HQ-0005
Project Title: Cape Wind-Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS
Document ID: PRG-HQ-0005-000001
Document Title: Cape Wind Offshore Wind Development 2007

Dear Madam or Sir:

On behalf of the 27,000 men and women employed in the marine trades in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the 1,200 recreational marine business owners and the membership of the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association, we write in opposition to the siting of the Cape Wind Offshore Development.

While supportive of renewable energy efforts and stalwart advocates for the marine environment, the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association members maintain that this particular project, Cape Wind, is inappropriately large, problematically situated and potentially environmentally devastating. As marine industry business owners and employees, we are most concerned about Cape Wind's long term negative impact on recreational and commercial boating activity which, in turn, will negatively impact all of the small business owners who derive their livelihoods from boating activity: boatyards, marinas, retailers, brokers and repairers.

The large scale industrialization of this pristine body of water will undoubtedly take the entirety of Nantucket Sound off the list of desirable boating destinations. It will do so for several reasons. Nantucket Sound is a challenging body of water through which to navigate on the best of days. It is accessed year round by passenger ferries, island freight vessels, commercial fisheries and tens of thousands of recreational power boaters and sailors. All of this activity occurs in a relatively small, shallow, bountiful body of water with strong currents and notoriously fickle and fast changing weather patterns. Adding 130, 417-foot Wind Turbines 16-feet in base diameter over a 24 square mile area proximate to such a large landside and waterborne population create a potential navigational hazard. Taking into account the predicted significant RADAR and navigational instrument interference for transiting vessels, we reasonably believe that this entire body of water will become a No-Go area for only the most seasoned professional mariner. We are equally concerned about the potential for a devastating chemical spill from the central service platform stores in the event of a vessel collision.

The MA Marine Trades Association has over 100 members in the immediate vicinity of Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard employing thousands who will suffer direct negative consequences to their livelihood if this area is no longer a sought after pristine boating destination. Jobs will be lost and economic opportunity denied to thousands of marine trades men and women who service the 186,000 Massachusetts boat owners and tens of thousands of transient boaters. Nantucket Sound, Cape and Islands destination boater spending is a major contributor to the local and state economies. To make the this area of Nantucket Sound surrounding Horseshoe Shoal

inhospitable to seasonal and transient recreational boating will compel boaters to seek alternate hassle-free destinations at which to spend their recreational dollar and precious free time. This loss of business activity will invariably result in business closures and layoffs.

The marine industry in Massachusetts struggles to survive on a highly-regulated, congested and expensive coastline. We are situated between the two tax free, boating friendly states of New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Our marine business owners contribute to the unique character and quality of life in Coastal Massachusetts. Perennially tempted by non water dependent development offers, many small marine trade business owners will capitulate to the pressure and sell as the Cape Wind project's industrialization of Nantucket Sound makes this area less economically viable for recreational boating and the marine trades. The project will fundamentally and irrevocably alter the character of this area by imperiling the livelihoods of marinas and boatyards which contribute so much to the economy, history and heritage of coastal Massachusetts.

We urge you to look beyond the "Not in My Back Yard" spin that surrounds the Cape Wind project: for the members of the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association opposing this particular project is about saving jobs. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our grave concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Glavin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Glavin
President

Established in 1964, the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) is the statewide, representative body for over 1,200 marine trades businesses in the Commonwealth, including marinas, dealers, boatyards and repairers. Our businesses employ over 27,000 men and women and generate nearly \$2 Billion in annual economic activity for Massachusetts. The mission of the Association is to further the interests of the marine trades and the boating public through the promotion of boating, participation in legislation and professional improvement programs.